

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently Amended) A kit comprising a guide element and an immobilization/fusion element wherein the immobilization element comprising a biocompatible material with a size and shape suitable for placement within ~~[[the]]~~ a sacroiliac joint in contact with adjacent tissue of a human patient and wherein the guide element comprises a ~~[[sharp]]~~ point for placement within the sacroiliac joint.
2. (Original) The kit of claim 1 wherein the guide element comprises a threaded pin or an unthreaded pin.
3. (Original) The kit of claim 1 wherein the immobilization element comprises a threaded screw.
4. (Original) The kit of claim 3 wherein the screw is cannulated.
5. (Original) The kit of claim 3 wherein the screw is a self-tapping screw or has cutting threads.
6. (Original) The kit of claim 1 wherein the immobilization element is associated with a biologically active agent.

7. (Original) The kit of claim 1 wherein the immobilization element is coated with the biologically active agent.
8. (Original) The kit of claim 1 further comprising a cutting/drill guide having a positioning element to orient the cutting/drill guide in position at the sacroiliac joint and an alignment element to guide a cutting element/drill bit within the sacroiliac joint.
9. (Original) The kit of claim 1 further comprising a drill bit.
10. (Original) The kit of claim 1 further comprising a cannula.
11. (Original) The kit of claim 1 wherein the immobilization element comprises a screw with a taper of at least about 1 degrees and appropriate dimensions for implantation into the sacroiliac joint of a human patient.
12. (Currently Amended) A screw for [[the]] immobilization of a sacroiliac joint comprising a shaft with threads and a tip, the shaft having a biocompatible material with a taper of at least about 1 degrees and a dimension suitable for insertion into a sacroiliac joint of a human patient wherein the screw comprises a biocompatible material.
13. (Original) The screw of claim 12 wherein the screw comprises a biocompatible metal.
14. (Original) The screw of claim 12 wherein the screw comprises a biocompatible polymer.
15. (Original) The screw of claim 12 wherein the taper is from about 2 degrees to about 30 degrees.
16. (Canceled)
17. (Original) The screw of claim 12 wherein the widest thickness is from about 1.4 mm to about 16 mm.

18. (Original) The screw of claim 12 wherein the tip comprises flutes to provide a self tapping ability to the screw.
19. (Original) The screw of claim 12 wherein the threads have a sharp cutting edge.
20. (Original) The screw of claim 12 wherein the screw comprises a central channel.
21. (Original) A method for immobilizing a patient's sacroiliac joint, the method comprising inserting an immobilization/fusion element into a drilled area of the sacroiliac joint through a cannula that is placed through an incision formed in the patient.
22. (Original) The method of claim 21 further comprising drilling a region at the sacroiliac joint through the cannula.
23. (Original) The method of claim 21 further comprising placing a guide pin through the cannula.
24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the guide pin is place using real time imaging.